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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

Fifty-second session

REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its fifty-first session in October 2000, the Executive Committee adopted a decision on the programme of work of the Standing Committee in 2001 (A/AC.96/944, paragraph 29) in which it sets out the issues to be examined by the Standing Committee.

2. In accordance with Executive Committee Working Methods adopted at the forty-sixth session (A/AC.96/860, paragraph 32), the Standing Committee has held three meetings over the past year: in March, June and September 2001. A planning meeting of Executive Committee members in December 2000 established the calendar of meetings and determined the distribution of the different agenda items in 2001 (see Annex I). Members of the Executive Committee, in acknowledgment of the need for multi-year planning, also took note of the programme of work of the Standing Committee for the years 2002 and 2003 (Annex I).

3. A detailed account of the work undertaken at each of the meetings of the Standing Committee over the past year is contained in the following reports: *Report of the Twentieth Meeting of the Standing Committee* (A/AC.96/945); *Report of the Twenty-first Meeting of the Standing Committee* (A/AC.96/956); and *Report of the Twenty-Second Meeting of the Standing Committee* (A/AC.96/958).

II. ISSUES COVERED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE IN 2001

4. The work undertaken by the Standing Committee included a number of recurrent items. These concerned reviews of UNHCR's programmes and activities in various regions on the basis of oral updates, designed to allow the Standing Committee to oversee the strategy and evolution of these programmes and the essential challenges for the future. Africa and Central Asia, South-West Asia, North Africa and the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific were reviewed in March; and the Americas, Europe, including South-Eastern Europe, in June.

5. At each meeting, the Standing Committee considered regular updates on overall programme and funding issues, through which it was kept informed of the situation in terms of programme requirements and funding levels. In June, the Standing Committee considered the Global Report on UNHCR's activities in 2000. In September a Mid-Year Progress Report was presented on UNHCR's activities in the first half of 2001.

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6. Programme/protection policy issues were reviewed by the Standing Committee at all of its meetings. In March, it noted measures taken under the Plan of Action for emergency preparedness and response drawn up in 2000, and action taken to reinforce and strengthen staff safety and security, as well as refugee security. Other topics covered at this meeting included a progress report on reintegration; presentation of a community development approach to refugee situations; and a discussion on the need for a global approach to the problem of HIV/Aids which was a particular threat to refugees. At its June meeting, the Standing Committee considered the economic and social impact of refugee populations on host developing countries, as well as other countries, and also issues concerning refugee women. In September, the Standing Committee was briefed on UNHCR's contingency plan for a potentially huge exodus of Afghans to neighbouring countries (under "Any other business").

7. The June meeting of the Standing Committee focused particularly on questions of international protection. An update on the Global Consultations on International Protection was discussed at this meeting, and UNHCR's activities in the field of statelessness and issues concerning resettlement were also considered.

8. At each meeting during the year, the Standing Committee received an oral briefing on coordination issues within the United Nations system that focused on UNHCR's participation in the various coordinating mechanisms and its perspective on major issues under discussion.

9. In June, issues of management, finance, oversight and human resources reviewed by the Standing Committee covered UNHCR's inspection and evaluation plans and activities, as well as - for the first time - human resources management. The September meeting undertook a preliminary review of financial and budgetary documentation being submitted to the fifty-first session of the Executive Committee.

10. At its March session, under governance issues, the Standing Committee discussed the question of the selection of an annual theme for the fifty-second session of the Executive Committee. 2001 being the first year of the mandate of the newly-elected High Commissioner, it was considered useful to replace the traditional annual theme with a debate based on the High Commissioner's perspective on the work of his Office. The Standing Committee also recalled the changes to the Executive Committee's annual session introduced in 2000, and discussed suggestions for further enhancements to the format for the fifty-second session in 2001.

11. In accordance with what has now become standard practice for the Committee, informal consultations took place in the course of the year on issues requiring in-depth discussion. These included: UNHCR's budget; the evaluation function; security issues; human resources; HIV/Aids; and decentralization.

III. STANDING COMMITTEE DECISIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

12. In accordance with the authority vested in it by the Executive Committee, the Standing Committee adopted a number of decisions and conclusions on matters included in its programme of work. The texts of these decisions are annexed to the reports of the different Standing Committee meetings, as follows:

Report of the Twentieth Meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/945)

- Decision on Programme and Funding
- Conclusion on Reinforcing a Community Development Approach

Report of the Twenty-first Meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/956)

- Decision on overall programme and funding projections for 2001
- Decision on proposals for budget structure

Plenary decisions: preparation of drafts by the Standing Committee

13. The following draft conclusions and decisions were prepared by members of the Committee, in a series of informal consultations under the chairmanship of the Rapporteur, for endorsement by the Executive Committee in the report of its fifty-second session:

- Conclusion on international protection, including sub-sections on statelessness and resettlement
- Conclusion on registration
- Conclusion on follow-up to the 1996 Geneva Conference on the problems of refugees, displaced persons, migration and asylum issues
- Decision on administrative, financial and programme matters
- Decision on draft guidelines on supplementary activities
- Decision on the programme of work of the Standing Committee in 2002
- Decision on the provisional agenda of the fifty-third session
- Decision on observer participation in 2001-2002

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE STANDING COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME
AND SCHEDULE FOR GLOBAL
CONSULTATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION IN **2001**

12 March 2001

	20th Meeting **12-14 March**	**21st Meeting** **25-27 June**	**22nd Meeting** **26 September**
PROGRAMME AND FUNDING	• Overall programme and funding in 2000 and projections for 2001; oral strategic presentation on: Africa, Asia and the Pacific and CASWANAME	• Update on Annual Programme Budget and funding; oral strategic presentation on: the Americas and Europe, including South-Eastern Europe • Global Report • Budget consultations	• Annual Programme Budget, including the Report of the ACABQ • Update on funding • Mid-Year Progress Report
INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION"		• Update on Global Consultations, including: - Article 1 F of the 1951 Convention (exclusion clauses); - Refugee women; and - Refugee children • Report on UNHCR's activities in the field of statelessness • Resettlement (Information Note)	
PROTECTION/PROGRAMME POLICY	• Follow-up to annual theme • Progress report on UNHCR's emergency preparedness and response capacity • Reintegration: progress report • Community Services • Refugees and HIV/Aids • Safety and security issues	• Economic and social impact of massive refugee populations on host developing countries, as well as other countries • Refugee women	

* As adopted at the 20'" meeting of the Standing Committee on 12 March 2001.

	20th Meeting 12-14 March	21st Meeting 25-27 June	22nd Meeting 26 September
COORDINATION	• Oral update on coordination issues: ECOSOC Humanitarian Segment; IASC/ECHA/ACC, including the OCHA commissioned study on coordination and follow-up to the Brahimi Report	• Oral update on coordination issues: ECOSOC Humanitarian Segment; IASC/ECHA/ACC and briefing on the activities of the Senior Network on Internal Displacement	• Oral update on coordination issues: ECOSOC Humanitarian Segment; IASC/ECHA/ACC
GOVERNANCE	• Selection of annual theme for the fifty-second session of the Executive Committee	• Selection of annual theme for the fifty-second session of the Executive Committee	
MANAGEMENT, FINANCE, OVERSIGHT AND HUMAN RESOURCES		• UNHCR's inspection plan and activities • UNHCR's evaluation plan and activities • UNHCR's human resources management	• Voluntary funds administered by the High Commissioner: Accounts for the year 2000 • Follow-up to the Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly on the Accounts of the Voluntary Funds Administered by UNHCR for the period ended December 1999 • Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly on the Accounts of the Voluntary Funds Administered by UNHCR for the period ended December 2000 • Measures Taken or Proposed in Response to the Recommendations in the Report of the Board of Auditors

Fifty-second session of the Executive Committee
1 -5 October 2001

	First meeting: 8-9 March	Second meeting: 28-29 June	Third meeting: 27-28 September
GLOBAL CONSULTATIONS	• Protection of refugees in mass influx situations	• Protection of refugees in the context of individual asylum systems	• Protection of refugees in the context of individual asylum systems (continued)

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE STANDING COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME
AND TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR GLOBAL
CONSULTATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION IN 2002

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13 December 2000

	23rd Meeting February/March	24th Meeting June/July	25th Meeting September/October
PROGRAMME AND FUNDING	• Overall programme and funding in 2001 and projections for 2002; oral strategic presentation on: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and CASWANAME	• Update on Annual Programme Budget and funding; oral strategic presentation on: the Americas and Europe, including South-Eastern Europe • Global Report	• Annual Programme Budget, including the Report of the ACABQ • Update on funding • Mid-Year Progress Report
INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION		• Note on International Protection • Two protection-specific items, including internally displaced persons	
PROTECTION/PROGRAMME POLICY	• Follow-up to annual theme** • Refugee children • Older refugees • Refugees and environmental issues • Safety and security issues	• Economic and social impact of massive refugee populations on host developing countries, as well as other countries	
COORDINATION	• Update on coordination issues: ECOSOC Humanitarian Segment; IASC/ECHA/ACC (oral report)	• Update on coordination issues: ECOSOC Humanitarian Segment; IASC/ECHA/ACC (oral report)	• Update on coordination issues: ECOSOC Humanitarian Segment; IASC/ECHA/ACC (oral report)
GOVERNANCE	• Selection of Annual Theme for the fifty-third Session of the Executive Committee	• Selection of Annual Theme for the fifty-third Session of the Executive Committee	

* Noted at the Planning Meeting of the Standing Committee on 13 December 2000.
** Annual theme replaced at fifty-second Session by debate on High Commissioner's statement.

	23rd Meeting February/March	24th Meeting June/July	25th Meeting September/October
MANAGEMENT, FINANCE, OVERSIGHT AND HUMAN RESOURCES		• UNHCR's inspection plan and activities • UNHCR's evaluation plan and activities	• Voluntary funds administered by the High Commissioner: Accounts for the year 2001 • Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly on the Accounts of the Voluntary Funds Administered by UNHCR for the period ended December 2000 • Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly on the Accounts of the Voluntary Funds Administered by UNHCR for the period ended December 2001 • Measures Taken or Proposed in Response to the Recommendations in the Report of the Board of Auditors

Fifty-third session of the Executive Committee
October 2002

	Fourth meeting: February/March***
GLOBAL CONSULTATIONS	• The search for protection-based solutions

***Two additional meetings are foreseen in 2002.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE STANDING
COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2003

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13 December 2000

	26th Meeting February/March	27th Meeting June/July	28th Meeting September/October
PROGRAMME AND FUNDING	• Overall programme and funding in 2002 and projections for 2003; oral strategic presentation on: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and CASWANAME	• Update on Annual Programme Budget and funding; oral strategic presentation on: the Americas and Europe, including South-Eastern Europe • Global Report	• Annual Programme Budget, including the Report of the ACABQ • Update on funding • Mid-Year Progress Report
INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION		• Note on International Protection • Two protection-specific items to be decided upon	
PROTECTION/PROGRAMME POLICY	• Follow-up to annual theme • Refugee women • Economic and social impact of massive refugee populations on host developing countries, as well as other countries • Safety and security issues		
COORDINATION	• Update on coordination issues: ECOSOC Humanitarian Segment; IASC/ECHA/ACC (oral report)	• Update on coordination issues: ECOSOC Humanitarian Segment; IASC/ECHA/ACC (oral report)	• Update on coordination issues: ECOSOC Humanitarian Segment; IASC/ECHA/ACC (oral report)
GOVERNANCE	• Selection of Annual Theme for the fifty-fourth Session of the Executive Committee	• Selection of Annual Theme for the fifty-fourth Session of the Executive Committee	

*Noted at the Planning Meeting of the Standing Committee on 13 December 2000.

	26th Meeting February/March	27th Meeting June/July	28th Meeting September/October
MANAGEMENT, FINANCE, OVERSIGHT AND HUMAN RESOURCES		• UNHCR inspection plan and activities • UNHCR evaluation plan and activities	• Voluntary funds administered by the High Commissioner: Accounts for the year 2001 • Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly on the Accounts of the Voluntary Funds Administered by UNHCR for the period ended December 2001 • Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly on the Accounts of the Voluntary Funds Administered by UNHCR for the period ended December 2002 • Measures Taken or Proposed in Response to the Recommendations in the Report of the Board of Auditors

Fifty-fourth session of the Executive Committee
OCTOBER 2003

STANDING COMMITTEE DOCUMENTATION ISSUED DURING 2000

20th Meeting (12-14 March 2001)

EC/51/SC/CRP.1	Provisional Annotated Agenda
EC/51/SC/CRP.2	Standing Committee Work Programme for 2001
EC/51/SC/CRP.3	Format of the Executive Committee - Proposals for the Fifty-second Session
EC/51/SC/CRP.4	Emergency Preparedness and Response
EC/51/SC/CRP.5	Reintegration: a progress report
EC/51/SC/CRP.6	Reinforcing a community approach
EC/51/SC/CRP.7	Refugees and HIV/AIDS
EC/51/SC/CRP.8	Safety and Security Issues
EC/51/SC/CRP.9	Overall Programme and Funding in 2000 and Projections for 2001
EC/51/SC/INF.1	Update on Coordination issues within the United Nations system

21st Meeting (25-27 June 2001)

EC/51/SC/CRP.10	Draft Report of the Twentieth Meeting of the Standing Committee
EC/51/SC/CRP.11/ Rev.1	Provisional Annotated Agenda
EC/51/SC/CRP.12	Update on Global Consultations on International Protection
EC/51/SC/CRP.13	UNHCR's Activities in the Field of Statelessness: progress report
EC/51/SC/CRP.14 and Add.1	Overall Programme and Funding Projections for 2001
EC/51/SC/CRP.15/ Rev.1	Proposals for Budget Structure
EC/51/SC/CRP.16	Economic and Social Impact of Massive Refugee Populations on Host Developing Countries, as well as Other Countries
EC/51/SC/CRP.17	Refugee Women and Mainstreaming a Gender Equality Perspective

EC/51/SC/CRP.18	UNHCR's Inspection Plan and Activities
EC/51/SC/CRP.19	UNHCR's Evaluation Plan and Activities
EC/51/SC/CRP.20	UNHCR's Human Resources Management
EC/51/SC/INF.2	New Directions for Resettlement Policy and Practice
EC/51/SC/INF.3	Update on Coordination Issues

22nd meeting (26 September)

EC/51/SC/CRP.21	Draft Report of the Twenty-first Meeting of the Standing Committee
EC/51/SC/CRP.22	Provisional Annotated Agenda
EC/51/SC/CRP.23	Update on Programme and Funding for 2001
EC/51/SC/INF.4	Update on Coordination Issues